(c) For control of pollution from various sources, emission norms are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which are based on best practicable technologies. The standards for vehicular pollution control, in particular, are comparable to European countries.

Pollution in Mumbai

3776. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether pollution is increasing in Mumbai and other metros in the country due to emission of smoke by vehicles driven with petrol and diesel;

(b) whether Government have carried out any survey regarding the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to start buses and autos with CNG in these Metropolitan cities specially Mumbai;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to combat pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The ambient air quality monitoring is being carried out regularly in metro cities including Mumbai under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. The levels of pollution in ambient air have been showing a decreasing trend in Mumbai. The analysis of monitoring data has indicated a decrease in Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai during the year 2002 as compared to 2001. The Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) levels were within the National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQ) Standards. The Nitrogen dioxide (NOx) level were also within the NAAQ Standards in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

(c) to (e) The steps initiated for reducing vehicular pollution in Mumbai include quality control of engines produced by vehicle manufacturers, improved quality of fuels, measures for traffic management, maintenance of vehicles and phasing of old vehicles. Action plan for reducing pollution levels includes conversion of vehicles to clean fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)/Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).